

Hawaii Department of Agriculture - Pesticides Branch
1st Quarter Report; EPA Region IX
October – December 2016

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Attended Out of State Travel by Staff:

- October 24 - 27, 2016; Pesticide Regulatory Education Program (PREP); Pesticide Management and Emerging Issues, Indianapolis, Indiana. (Victoria Matsumura)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Personnel:

EHS V Lance Kobashigawa, supervisor for the registration/licensing and education/certification sections retired at the end of October having completed 33 years of service with the Pesticides Branch. He held various positions in enforcement and registration/licensing sections. EHS III Steve Russo is on TA in this position.

Dr. John McHugh was hired as the Plant Industry Division Administrator in December. He will provide administrative oversight over the Plant Pest Control, Pesticides and Plant Quarantine Branches at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

EHS II Adam Williams was hired in December and is a new enforcement inspector on Oahu. We are slated to hold interviews for a 2nd Maui inspector and 4th Oahu inspector in January 2017.

Legislative ask: Four positions were asked to be included in the Governor's budget request to be presented to the State Legislature for the upcoming 2017 session. These position are for 2 case developers, 1 staff in the registration/licensing section and one chemist.

Service awards were presented to Dr. Joey Chen, lead chemist at the Chemical Analysis Laboratory for his 10 years of service and EHS IV Christina Zimmerman was recognized as the HDOA Employee of the year for her work in the Pesticides Branch as lead in helping to incorporate a new database system in the branch linking, enforcement, education/certification, CAL and the registration/licensing sections.

Pesticides Semi-Annual Training

The Pesticides Branch held its training during November 16th – 19th. Medical monitoring and Ag use and WPS Tier I inspections were conducted in the field with enforcement attendees. EPA Region IX's Mary Grisier provided program updates as did Scott McWhorter on Producer Establishment Inspections and Katy Wilcoxon on changes in the Worker Protection Standard Program. Pacific Islanders also share highlights on their enforcement efforts.

Other speakers presented information on:

Environmental Sampling - Department of Health

Cannabis: Pest Control – J. Sugano

Bee update/study - HDOA Apiary staff

Leaching Study Programmatic - HDOA Groundwater Review staff

Program updates - CTAHR Cooperative Extension

Recent plant diseases in Hawaii and biological control protocols - HDOA Plant Pest Control staff

Consulting Services. Ongoing meetings continue between Data House Consulting, Inc., and pesticides branch staff. Testing of the new IPIS database system utilizing enforcement inspection forms continues with field testing to occur in January 2017 as tablets and a mobile printer have been purchased. Rather than call the staff for information, certified applicators can now access on line and find their accumulated CEU credits, sign up to take certification exams and look for upcoming trainings/workshops for CEU credits. Hosts of workshops can now use a mobile phone app to scan in attendees and send to HDOA the number of attendees and CEU credits given. The registration section continues to work on the online license renewal process.

USGS Grant.

The HDOA is providing \$500,000 to the USGS to conduct water sampling for pesticide detection in areas not previously sampled in the 2013-2014 DOH/HDOA pesticide sampling pilot project. A meeting was held where the USGS staff provided updates on sites selected to deploy water sampling devices on Kauai and Oahu. Permission to access certain sites may be needed in some areas.

Development of Managed Pollinator Protection Plan (MP3)

A very limited amount of time was spent on the development of the MP3 as other work demands are taking precedence.

Registration/Licensing:

Licensing:

A total of 2582 licenses were processed for this quarter (Oct. – Dec. 2016), with fees collected totaling \$368,610. New licensed products were for 150 general use and 1 federal restricted use. Renewed licensed products were for 2,362 general use, 60 federal restricted use and 9 state restricted use.

Special Local Need registrations: Two issued this quarter.

- HI-16002 – Escort XP for use to control wild ginger in forests and natural areas.
- HI-11002 – Admire Pro for use to control aphids/plant hopper on field corn grown for seed production.

20 SLNs are active this quarter.

SLNs expiring his period:

- HI-60004 – Dupont Escort XP for use to control ginger- registration transferred to new number. Issued new SLN under HI – 16002
- HI-06003 – Goal Tender for use on nonbearing sugarcane – no application received.

Emergency Exemption:

None issued or active this quarter

State Experimental Use Permits:

None issued this quarter.

There are 3 EUP applications pending:

TMP – 16003 – Altosid for use to control little fire ant near waterways. Completed peer review.

TMP – 16004 – CFT Legumine Fish Toxicant for use to control tilapia in anchialine ponds. Under discussion.

TMP – 160065 – Ethephon 2SL for use in macadamia to increase uniformity of nut maturity.

Groundwater Reviews/New Actives status:
Mandestrobin (2 products) – going to Full groundwater review

Endangered Species Review Requests (Section 7):
None requested.

Chemical Analysis Laboratory (CAL):

A total of 225 tests were run for 20 samples pertaining to 6 enforcement cases. Another 68 tests were run for 5 samples pertaining to 1 batch of EPA check samples. All samples were finished either by the LC/MS or GC/MS equipment.

The 2nd year maintenance contract of the new LC/MS was purchased to help ensure that any breakdown of this new equipment can be handled without delays.

The contract agreement with the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) to provide backup chemical analysis work was presented to HDOA in mid-December. However, upon review, the language in the agreement was changed by CDFA's legal department and was not in line with what the HDOA presented. We questioned the change and are waiting to hear back from CDFA, we may have to find another lab as back up.

Education/Certification:

Applicator Certification and Training Work plan:

- A total of 17 statewide certification examination sessions were held.
- One hundred fifty five (155) examinees were tested in Private applicator or Commercial applicator categories.
- Out of these examinees, 35 individuals became newly certified applicators and another 15 individuals were re-certified in their appropriate work profession categories.
- 16 certified applicators collectively earned 91.5 recertification credits by taking quizzes.
- 6 CET training classes were held and attended by approximately 120 certified applicators. These attendees collectively earned 160 recertification credits.
- A meeting was held with the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources (CTAHR) Interim Associate Dean & Associate Director for Cooperative Extension Service on networking possibilities with county extension agents to do annual training with farmers on the federal WPS. HDOA would provide a "train the trainer" program with the extension agents. Discussions are ongoing.

Worker Protection Standard training:

- WPS training provided to:
 - Kauai UofH Extension Agents, DOFAW employees, farmers and nursery workers (30)
 - RCUH and CRB Task Force (24)
 - Mililani Ag Park farmers and Nursery companies (40)
 - Westside farmers and nursery companies (45)
 - Kauai North Shore organic growers (15)
 - OK Farms/Kau farm management (1)
 - Kohala Nursery (1)
 - Hirayama Farm (1)
 - Komohana Research and Extension Service (21)

- Hawaii Volcano Tea (2)

Other trainings/technical assistance provided by Pesticide Education staff included topics on:

- Proper pesticide use, label review, safety, PPE, storage, recordkeeping, heat stress, calculating use rates, drift, spills;
 - Kamaaina Termite (2)
 - Kapiolani Park (10)
 - Kaumana School (2)
 - Statewide county road crew workers (30)
 - Four Seasons Resort/Pulama Lanai (10)
 - DOT Highways Honokaa Base yard (2)
 - Waimea Civic Center (10)
 - HDOA Conference Room (20)
- WPS compliance review and violations
 - Kauai Fresh Farms (1)
 - Dow/Mycogen Seeds Kauai (3)
 - Pacific Floral Exchange (1)
- Pesticide Law review
 - Landscape Industry Council Hawaii (25)
 - Maui Electric Company (MECO) (350)
- Information on fire ants
 - Big island LFA Coalition (1)

Enforcement Highlights. (Cases are still open)

Oahu:

- A resident complained about a malathion odor coming from his neighbor's property. Sample results indicated malathion on the complaint's car windows.
- A complainant alleged that while his neighbor placed loose rodent bait blocks in his (neighbors) own yard, the complainant's dog may have come in contact with a bait block. A suspected violation is that the rodenticide label requires that the bait blocks be placed in a secured bait box.
- The DOH-Sanitation Branch detected carbaryl and oxamyl on a farmer's green onions and notified HDOA. The farmer denied applying carbaryl or oxamyl on his green onions. HDOA's sampling and analysis detected oxamyl on the farmer's green onions. There is no residue tolerance for this chemical on green onions.
- The DOH-Sanitation Branch detected dimethoate on a farmer's bitter melon crop and notified HDOA. The farmer denied applying dimethoate on his bitter melon crop. HDOA sampling and analysis detected dimethoate on the farmer's bitter melon. There is no residue tolerance for this chemical on bitter melon. A control sample that was purchased from a local produce store contained about ten times the amount of dimethoate that was on the farmer's sample. This finding was reported to the DOH-Sanitation Branch for follow-up.

Maui/Molokai:

- A plant nursery owner filed a complaint alleging that herbicides were leaching into groundwater and affecting his drinking water. Water samples obtained from the complainant's faucet tested negative for herbicides. The County of Maui Department of Water Supply stated that there were no changes in the water sources.
- A homeowner complained about spray applications of food grade citric acid to control coqui frogs. The complainant's wife is allegedly allergic to citric acid and requests that applicators make applications during calm winds and notify the complainant prior to spraying. The Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH) distributes pounds of food grade citric acid to various applicators in the area.
- EPA Region IX alerted the pesticides staff about a news article concerning the State of Hawaii Department of Health staff driving along a coastal highway with a giant water gun, spraying trees and brush with diluted detergent to kill mosquito larvae. The applicator cited in the article said that 32 fluid ounce spray bottles were used to spot spray pools of water located in some of the tourist rest spots.
- A referral from the DOH Sanitation Branch alerted staff of basil adulterated with the a.i. carbaryl. The farmer stated that this basil crop was destroyed on orders from the DOH Sanitation Branch. The farmer claims that he treated tomato crops grown within 7' of the basil crops with carbaryl and believes off target drift may have occurred.
- An individual reported viewing a broadcast hand application of a rodenticide product to landscaped areas at a local resort. The applicator, a pest control technician stated that he serviced the rodent bait stations and hand broadcasted fly bait into natural landscape areas. There is a suspected violation of placing bait in an area accessible to children and pets.

Kauai:

- A complainant alleged that an unknown odor caused the complainant's skin to burn. The complainant lives in a remote area since 2009 and this is the first time something like this has happened. A source of the odor could not be found.
- While surfing, a complainant claimed to smell an odor for approximately 45 minutes. The surfer stated that this is the first time in twenty years of surfing in the area that an odor was ever smelled. After identifying all spray activity in the area, the inspector determined that a company was spraying corn fields in the area with Malathion. The investigation discovered a suspected violation of the rate of application exceeded the prescribed label rate.
- EPA Region IX informed HDOA that they received an email from a Kauai council member regarding pesticide drift that may have occurred from an Ag company's application and inquired if HDOA was contacted by the complainant. HDOA informed EPA that the complainant met with the inspector and an investigation was conducted with the applicator.
- An employee of a conservation program had concerns about his personal exposure to pesticides on numerous occasions during the past year and of excessive applications being made to forest areas

by conservation applicators. The complainant was interviewed and environmental samples taken from the work facility for chemical analysis.

Hawaii Island:

- An anonymous caller alleged that a property manager hired foreign landscapers who do not speak English and said these landscapers cannot understand pesticide labels due to language barriers. The complainant said the gardeners had sprayed an orange or tangerine tree with Sevin. The complainant said this caused damage to the tree and its fruits. Investigation indicated that no pesticides were applied to the tree in question.
- A complainant and a couple of other people were concerned about the County of Hawaii's use of Roundup in a certain beach park area. The complainant said that she had photographed the County of Hawaii road crew spraying Roundup in a manner inconsistent with its labeling and would provide images via email. To date, no email images have been received. Also, no Roundup damage was observed in the beach park area by the inspector.
- A resident of a community association was concerned about a scheduled application of Roundup in their community. The complainant had called Senator Schatz's office about this concern and HDOA was notified. A follow up with the community association's applicator was made and it was reported that no Roundup application occurred. A review of the Roundup label was conducted with the applicator and information about following label directions and environmental concerns emphasized.
- A resident filed a complaint against Hawaii County crews, spraying weeds growing under a guardrail on the road next to his house where he observed drift from the application landing on his dogs, banana plants, ti plants, and hapu'u ferns growing on his property. In the past, the complainant has asked the county not to spray his banana trees. Samples and analysis tested positive for glyphosate.
- A resident said her neighbor sprayed food crops growing on her property with Roundup. Lab results pending.
- A resident filed a complaint against his neighbor for applying an unknown pesticide to a vacant lot next to complainant's property. Complainant said that the odor was overwhelming and created breathing difficulties. Lab results pending.